

Atty. Dkt. No. 071949-2106

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the currently pending claims with the following amended claims. In accordance with the newly instituted revised amendment format, a complete set of claims follows, with new material to be added to the claims shown as underlined, and material to be deleted shown as ~~struck-through~~. Applicants note that the following amendments cancel claims 84, 85, 90, and 93 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 94-98.

1-68 (Previously cancelled)

69. (Previously added) An antibody or a fragment thereof, immobilized on a solid phase, that specifically binds cardiac troponin I, wherein said antibody is insensitive with respect to each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T.

70. (Previously added) An antibody, or fragment thereof, conjugated to a signal generating element, that specifically binds cardiac troponin I, wherein said antibody is insensitive with respect to each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T.

71. (Previously added) A method of selecting antibodies for an immunoassay for cardiac troponin I, the method comprising:

selecting two or more antibodies that, when used in said immunoassay, provide an assay response that is insensitive with respect to each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T.

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72. (Previously added) A method according to claim 71, wherein said two or more antibodies are independently selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibodies, recombinant antibodies and polyclonal antibodies.

73. (Previously added) A method according to claim 71, wherein said at least two antibodies are selected to provide a signal that is within about 20% for equimolar amounts of each said form of cardiac troponin I.

74. (Previously added) A method according to claim 71, wherein said method comprises selecting two antibodies, each of which is insensitive with respect to each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and T.

75-78 (Previously cancelled)

79. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

one or more antibodies, or fragments thereof, immobilized on a solid phase, wherein said one or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said antibodies.

80. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

one or more antibodies, or fragments thereof, conjugated to a signal generating element, wherein said one or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said antibodies.

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81. (Currently amended) A method of selecting antibodies to cardiac troponin I, said method comprising:

selecting one or more antibodies that bind to cardiac troponin I, wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said antibodies.

82. (Previously added) The composition of claim 79 or 80, wherein said antibodies are selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody, recombinant antibody and polyclonal antibody.

83. (Previously added) The method of claim 81, wherein said antibodies are selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody, recombinant antibody and polyclonal antibody.

84. (Cancelled herein)

85. (Cancelled herein)

86. (Previously added) The composition of claim 79 or 80, wherein said antibodies are unable to distinguish between said forms of cardiac troponin I.

87. (Previously added) The method of claim 81, wherein said antibodies are unable to distinguish between said forms of cardiac troponin I.

88. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

one or more first antibodies, or fragments thereof, immobilized on a solid phase, wherein said one or more first antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said first antibodies; and

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one or more second antibodies, or fragments thereof, conjugated to a signal generating element, wherein said second antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said second antibodies.

89. (Previously added) The composition of claim 88, wherein said first and second antibodies are independently selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody, recombinant antibody and polyclonal antibody.

90. (Cancelled herein)

91. (Previously added) A method of selecting antibodies for a sandwich immunoassay, the method comprising:

selecting one or more first antibodies and one or more second antibodies, wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said first and second antibodies.

92. (Previously added) The method of claim 91 wherein said first and second antibodies are independently selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody, recombinant antibody and polyclonal antibody.

93. (Cancelled herein)

94. (New) A composition comprising:

a pool of two or more antibodies, or fragments thereof, immobilized on a solid phase, wherein said two or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free

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cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said antibodies.

95. (New) A composition comprising:

a pool of two or more antibodies, or fragments thereof, conjugated to a signal generating element, wherein said two or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said antibodies.

96. (New) A method of selecting antibodies to cardiac troponin I, said method comprising:

selecting a pool of two or more antibodies, wherein said two or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more of said antibodies.

97. (New) A composition comprising:

A first pool of two or more antibodies, or fragments thereof, immobilized on a solid phase, wherein said two or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more antibodies of said first pool; and

a second pool of two or more antibodies, or fragments thereof, conjugated to a signal generating element, wherein said two or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and

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cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more antibodies of said second pool.

98. (New) A method of selecting antibodies for a sandwich immunoassay, the method comprising:

selecting a first pool of two or more antibodies and a second pool of two or more antibodies, wherein said two or more antibodies or antibody fragments are selected to bind to cardiac troponin I, and wherein each form of cardiac troponin I selected from the group consisting of free cardiac troponin I, cardiac troponin I in a binary complex with troponin C, and cardiac troponin I in a ternary complex with troponin C and troponin T binds to one or more antibodies of said first and second pools.